



# West Valley City **POLICE**

## **Office of Chief Lee W. Russo**

3575 South Market Street, West Valley City, Utah, 84119

On March 2, 2015, the West Valley City Police Department will deploy 190 body cameras for use by our sworn officers. WVCPD will utilize Taser Axon Flex body cameras which will be worn by all sworn personnel with the exception of command staff and a limited number of administrative positions. WVCPD has selected a "head mount" format in which the camera mounts via a magnet to the side of a pair of eye glasses, sun glasses or a mount that wraps around the back of the head. This format was selected because of its ability to provide audio visual recording of an incident from the officer's perspective. What the officer sees, the camera sees.

Officers will wear the camera in the "normal" or "buffering" mode during their shift. They will switch the device to "record" mode when making contact with the public. When the camera is activated, it will automatically store the video it captured in the 30 seconds prior to the camera being switched to record.

WVCPD Chief Lee Russo proposed the cameras as a tool to increase transparency in the police department, protect officers from false claims and complaints and to provide the most professional and highest quality service possible to the citizens of West Valley City. The cameras will not replace an officer's integrity, they will reaffirm it.

The Taser Axon Flex contract is approximately \$1.1 million and covers the equipment as well as storage of data for five years. After the first 2 ½ years, WVCPD will receive a complete refresh of its cameras with the latest technology available. The equipment will also be refreshed at the 5 year mark. The cameras are warrantied against all damage or failure and will immediately be replaced. Each camera kit costs approximately \$800. The remainder, and the majority of the cost, comes from infrastructure to support the technology and store the data.

Officers will upload recorded media at the end of each shift. An on-line web-based media storage facility will store digitally encrypted video and audio recordings from the camera systems. The data is accessible only to authorized personnel and maintains an audit trail of all user activities.

Body camera video will be stored in accordance with federal, state and local statutes. Once the legally mandated retention period is reached, videos will be purged from the system. Video tagged for retention by a supervisor will not be deleted. Officers will not have the capability to edit, alter or delete captured video.

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